

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 169

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor country music legend Reba McEntire on the occasion of her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those gifted musical artists who have reached the very pinnacle of the country music industry; and

WHEREAS, Reba McEntire will receive country music's highest honor when she is inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding career as a superbly talented musician; and

WHEREAS, Reba McEntire was born in McAlester, Oklahoma, on March 28, 1955, to Clark Vincent and Jacqueline Smith McEntire; and

WHEREAS, the third of four children, Ms. McEntire was raised on her family's 8,000-acre ranch in Chockie, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Reba's family traveled frequently to watch her father, who was a World Champion Steer Roper, compete at rodeos, and, during long car rides to visit him, Reba's mother taught the four children how to sing and harmonize; and

WHEREAS, during high school, Reba McEntire and two of her siblings were members of the Kiowa High School Cowboy Band and recorded a single, "The Ballad of John McEntire," for Boss Records in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the three musical siblings, all of whom grew up to have careers in the music industry, soon formed their own group, The Singing McEntires, and performed frequently at rodeos, clubs, and dance halls; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation from high school, Reba pursued a degree in elementary education and music at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, from which she graduated in 1976; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1974, Reba McEntire sang the national anthem at the National Rodeo Finals in Oklahoma City and her performance impressed artist Red Steagall so much that he invited her to Nashville to record demos for his music publishing company; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Ms. McEntire recorded the demos at Mr. Steagall's studio and he shopped her tapes around Nashville, securing her a deal with Polygram Mercury Records that November; and

WHEREAS, though her first recordings and her self-titled debut album were not very successful, Reba worked to steadily build her career and, on September 17, 1977, she was invited to debut at the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, her following two albums still did not make the charts, but her career began to take off when she made the Top Twenty with songs such as "Three Sheets in the Wind" with Jacky Ward and with her cover of Patsy Cline's "Sweet Dreams"; and

WHEREAS, Reba achieved her first Top Ten hit when "(You Lift Me) Up to Heaven" reached Number Eight in 1980, and she followed its success with the Top Five hit, "Today All Over Again"; and

WHEREAS, more success followed when her fourth album, *Heart To Heart*, became her first charting album, reaching Number Forty-Two on the Billboard Country Albums Chart, and her fifth album, *Unlimited*, peaked at Number Twenty-Two on the charts, featuring her Number Three hit, "I'm Not That Lonely Yet," and her first two Number One hits, "Can't Even Get the Blues," and "You're the First Time I've Thought About Leaving"; and

WHEREAS, Reba McEntire signed with MCA Records in 1983 and released the album, *Just A Little Love*, one year later, featuring the Top Five title cut; and

WHEREAS, she aspired to have more control of her song selection and album production and MCA's president, Jimmy Bowen, allowed Ms. McEntire to do so; in 1984, she released the album, *My Kind of Country*, and reached Number One hits with two of the album's songs, "How Blue," and "Somebody Should Leave"; and

WHEREAS, with both new material and covers of songs featured on the album, Reba was quickly propelled to the forefront of the "New Traditionalists" artists; and

WHEREAS, her career reached new heights in 1984, when she won the Country Music Association's (CMA) Female Vocalist of the Year Award for the first time, an award which she went on to win the three following years as well; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Reba McEntire joined the Grand Ole Opry and was named the CMA Entertainer of the Year that October in recognition of her remarkable concert performances; and

WHEREAS, 1986 also saw the release of her album, *Whoever's In New England*, which became her first album to be certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, and both the title cut and the song, "Little Rock," became Number One hits; and

WHEREAS, Reba's album, *Greatest Hits*, became her first Platinum-certified album upon its release in 1987 and she continued to top the charts with hits such as, "The Last One to Know," and "Love Will Find Its Way to You," but her album, *Reba*, signaled a crossover to a more pop-oriented musical style, which proved to be successful for Ms. McEntire as well; and

WHEREAS, she ventured into the business world when she and her manager, Narvel Blackstock, created Starstruck Entertainment in 1988 to handle Reba's management, booking, publicity, and publishing, and the company has gone on to work with artists such as Kelly Clarkson and Blake Shelton; and

WHEREAS, Reba McEntire married Mr. Blackstock in 1989 and gave birth to their son, Shelby Steven McEntire Blackstock, in 1990; and

WHEREAS, she has become an accomplished author as well, writing two books: an autobiography entitled, "Reba: My Story," which was published in 1994, and "Comfort from a Country Quilt," which was published in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Reba and her husband have expanded their business to oversee the creation and development of a line of clothing, footwear, luggage, and home collection items, which are sold in Dillard's retail stores nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a true renaissance woman, Ms. McEntire decided to try the acting world, first appearing in the 1990 horror-comedy film, "Tremors," alongside Kevin Bacon and Michael Gross and, over the years, she has continued to appear in numerous films and television movies, and she has voiced characters in animated movies and television series; and

WHEREAS, she has remained a dynamo in the music industry alongside her acting career, continuing to chart hits such as, “You Lie,” “Rumor Has It,” and “Fancy”; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Reba McEntire successfully took over the role of Annie Oakley in the Broadway play, “Annie Get Your Gun,” which resulted in rave reviews and sold-out performances, and for which she earned a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of her role on Broadway, she moved to Los Angeles to star in her own sitcom, *Reba*, on the Warner Bros. Network, and the show remained in production for six successful seasons, ending in 2007; the show increased in popularity through syndication re-runs on the Lifetime Network, and the re-runs will air for a second round of syndication on the American Broadcasting Company Family channel and on the Country Music Television channel through 2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Ms. McEntire released the album, *Reba Duets*, an album which paired her with numerous artists, including Kenny Chesney, Vince Gill, and Rascal Flatts, and it became her first album to debut at Number One on the Billboard Top 200 album chart; and

WHEREAS, upon the release of the three-disc album, *50 Greatest Hits*, in 2008, Reba McEntire left MCA Records and moved to the Valory Music Label, releasing her first album, *Keep on Loving You*, for the label in 2009, which became her second album to debut at Number One on the Billboard Top 200 chart; and

WHEREAS, the album’s first single, “Strange,” debuted at Number Thirty-Nine on the Billboard Country Singles chart, the highest single chart debut and the fastest rising single of her career, and her song, “Consider Me Gone,” topped the Billboard Country Singles chart for four consecutive weeks and became her longest-running Number One song ever; and

WHEREAS, her most recent album, *All the Women I Am*, was released in 2010 and features hit singles, “Turn on the Radio,” and a remake of the popular Beyoncé Knowles song, “If I Were a Boy,” which Reba performed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual CMA Awards; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Reba McEntire has sold more than fifty-five million albums worldwide and, to date, she has achieved thirty-five Number One

singles, fifty-nine Top Ten singles, she is the recipient of six CMA Awards, fifteen American Music Awards, two Grammy Awards, and nine People's Choice Awards; and

WHEREAS, she is one of only four entertainers to be honored by the United States Congress with the National Artistic Achievement Award, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1998 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Cowboy Hall of Fame the same year; she was honored as Billboard's Woman of the Year in 2007, and, in 2009, she was officially recognized as the biggest female hit-maker in country music history by *Billboard*, *Country Aircheck*, and *Mediabase*; and

WHEREAS, with forty-nine career nominations so far, she is the most nominated female artist in CMA Awards history; and

WHEREAS, Reba McEntire is one of the most versatile and successful performers in the history of country music; her immeasurable talent and innovative approach have enabled her to leave an indelible mark on this art form and have secured her rightful place as an icon in its remarkable archives; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly recognize the illustrious achievements and extraordinary musical talents of one of country music's greatest legends, Reba McEntire, as her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame marks yet another outstanding pinnacle of a long, coveted career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Reba McEntire on the occasion of her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame, salute her legendary musical talents as a performing artist and entertainer and her singular contributions to country music, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.